

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LILONGWE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

S E C R E T STATE 177038

E.O 11652:GDS

TAGSXA

SUBJECT: CURRENT FOREIGN RELATIONS: ISSUE NO. 28,
JULY 14, 1976

1. THE FOLLOWING IS AF'S CONTRIBUTION TO ISSUE NO. 28
OF CURRENT FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR POST INFORMATION.
FULL TEXT OF CFR BEING POUCHED PER REGULAR SCHEDULES.

2. BEGIN QUOTE:

AF - US ANGOLAN RELATIONS WORSEN (CONFIDENTIAL)

ANGOLA'S EXECUTION OF DANIEL GEARHART, AN AMERICAN
CONVICTED OF BEING A MERCENARY BY AN ANGOLAN TRIBUNAL,
SERVES TO POSTPONE EVEN FURTHER ANY PROSPECT FOR AN IM-
PROVEMENT IN OUR RELATIONS WITH LUANDA. THE PRESIDENT AND
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THE SECRETARY CONDEMNED THE EXECUTION AS AN ACT UNJUSTIFIED

BY ANY NATIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL LAW. THE SECRETARY SAID, "THE DECISION BY PRESIDENT NETO TO IGNORE BOTH THE LAW AND THE FACTS CAN ONLY BE REGARDED BY THE UNITED STATES AS A DELIBERATELY HOSTILE ACT TOWARDS THIS COUNTRY AND ITS PEOPLE. AS SUCH IT CANNOT HELP BUT AFFECT ADVERSELY THE DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND

ANGOLA."

WE BELIEVE GEARHART WAS EXECUTED BECAUSE HE WAS AN AMERICAN. NOT EVEN THE ANGOLANS CONTEND HE HARMED ANYONE DURING THE THREE DAYS HE WAS IN ANGOLA BEFORE BEING CAPTURED BY THE CUBANS. THE ANGOLANS DID NOT ADVANCE ANY NATIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL LAW TO JUSTIFY THE SENTENCE. IN FACT, THE ONLY DISTINCTION THE TRIBUNAL WAS ABLE TO MAKE BETWEEN GEARHART AND THE OTHER TWO AMERICANS OR SEVEN BRITONS NOT EXECUTED WAS THAT HE WAS A "DANGEROUS MAN" BECAUSE HE HAD ADVERTISED HIS SERVICES FOR HIRE AS A MERCENARY AND HAD SENT \$10 TO MIKE HOARE'S MERCENARY CLUB IN SOUTH AFRICA.

IT SEEMS OBVIOUS THE ANGOLANS FELT A NEED TO INCLUDE ONE AMERICAN WITH THE THREE BRITONS TO BE EXECUTED. THE US HAS BECOME THE PRINCIPAL WHIPPING BOY FOR LUANDA'S PROPAGANDA AS WELL AS THE CULPRIT FOR ANGOLA'S MYRIAD UNRESOLVED DIFFICULTIES. WE BELIEVE NETO WAS UNDER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE FROM THE MORE RADICAL BLACK LEADERS IN HIS REGIME TO MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF THE MERCENARIES IN GENERAL AND AN AMERICAN IN PARTICULAR. NETO IGNORED TWO MESSAGES FROM THE UNITED STATES, PLEAS FROM QUEEN ELIZABETH AND PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN, AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AS WELL AS NUMEROUS PRIVATE GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS IN THE US AND ABROAD ASKING HIM TO SPARE THE LIVES OF THE MERCENARIES.

COMING IN THE WAKE OF OUR VETO OF ANGOLA'S ADMISSION TO THE UN, AND THE CONTINUED LACK OF A DEFINITIVE INDICATION OF A NET CUBAN WITHDRAWAL FROM ANGOLA, THE EXECUTION SERVES TO HARDEN POSITIONS ON BOTH SIDES AND TO POSTPONE ANY MEASURES TO ESTABLISH LINKS BETWEEN US AND THE LUANDA
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